

numerical information on the solitary bees once the appropriate taxonomic work has been completed.

References

- Alford, D. V. 1973. *Bumblebee distribution maps scheme: guide to the British species*. Bee Research Association, London.
 Free, J. B. and Butler, C. G. 1968. *Bumblebees*. Collins, London.
 Owen, D. 1978. *The natural history of Britain and Northern Europe: Towns and gardens*. Hodder & Stoughton, London.

AN UNUSUAL PUPATION SITE. — Being in quest of tineid records from the county, I made arrangements last winter with some of the wardens of the Essex Naturalists' Trust reserves to receive the contents of their nesting boxes when they cleared them out for the new season. A nest from Birch Wood, Little Baddow produced, besides tineids, no fewer than 16 specimens of *Ectoedemia argentipedella* (Zeller) (Lep.: Nepticulidae), which emerged from the 13th of May to the 2nd of June. For one nepticulid to have found its way into the nesting box would be interesting: for 16 to have done so is quite extraordinary; moreover, these were probably the survivors of two or three times that number, when parasites and normal mortality are allowed for. The nesting box was attached to or adjacent to a birch (the larval foodplant), since plenty of birch seed had found its way in amongst the nesting material. The larvae must have been feeding high in the tree, since these boxes are generally sited ten or more feet from the ground and they would hardly have climbed the tree to reach the nest. They must have walked there, as it is unreasonable to suppose that so many larvae, each having mined a different leaf would have all chanced to descend upon the same spot on their silken threads. When you consider that the line you are reading would easily accommodate 50 such larvae placed head to tail, you will appreciate the immense journey they must have undertaken. For them to converge on the nest, they must have been attracted to it, presumably by scent. It is remarkable that a larva, which has spent its life between the cuticles of a birch-leaf, should have a sense of smell capable of detecting a bird's nest from afar; furthermore, that it should associate the smell with a good pupation site. A nest is, in fact, not dissimilar from the sphagnum I would have provided for them in captivity.

In MBGBI 1: 174-5 I wrote of the Nepticulidae, "Except for a few species, it is hard to know what site is selected for pupation in the wild. . . . The chances of these specks being detected by a collector are remote." The incident I have narrated is unprecedented in my experience. — A. M. EMMET, Labrey Cottage, Victoria Gardens, Saffron Walden, Essex, 18.vi.1978.

CORRECTION

Reference "Winter Activity" by J. Cooter (*antea* 90: 115), in line one insert "final" after "three", and in line four for "Capsie" read "Campsie".